

First Utah Pioneer Day Celebration Held 1849

The first celebration of July 24 in Salt Lake Valley was held in 1849, two years after the pioneers arrived. Inhabitants of the valley were roused from their beds by the firing of a cannon and playing of music. Martial airs were played by the band which marched through the city to the old Bowery.

The next event on the program was the raising of a 65 foot flag on the liberty pole, which was 104 feet high. The Nauvoo bell was rung, the band played and a six gun salute was fired.

Banners from each of the wards were arranged down the Bowery aisles by bishops, and music and the firing of guns continued while the multitude gathered in preparation for an escort for Pres. Brigham Young. Directing the celebration and arranging for the escort were Lorenzo Snow, J. M. Grant and F. D. Richards.

Parade Held

Horace S. Eldredge, marshal, on horseback and in military uniform, lead the parade with a brass band following. Then came 74 young men dressed in white with white scarfs on their right shoulders, carrying a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States in their right hand. One of them carried a banner with the inscription, "The Zion of the Lord."

Following this group were 24 young ladies dressed in white with white scarfs on their shoulders and wreaths of white roses on their heads. Each carried a copy of the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Brigham Young and his group followed with 12 bishops next in the parade.

Described By Writer

In Heart Throbs of the West, compiled by Kate B. Carter, we read:

"The procession started from the house at 9 o'clock. The young men and the young ladies sang a hymn through the streets, the cannon roared, the musketry rolled, the Nauvoo bell pealed forth its silvery notes, and the air was filled by the sweet strains of the brass band."

When they arrived at the Bowery, Pres. Brigham Young was greeted with shouts of "Hail to the Governor of Deseret." Speeches were made, loyalty to

the United States and belief in the divinity of the Constitution were declared and the occasion respectfully celebrated.

Then the escort was reassembled, the bishops lead the inhabitants of their wards to the dinner tables and several thousand members of the Church dined together and three score Indians joined in a feast, July 24, 1849.

Wool for S. L. Mill Hauled By Ox Team

How much of the talk that goes on around a golf course today would these sturdy folk understand?

In 1884 when this Centennial contest photo was made the place was popularly identified as the Deseret Woolen Mill on Parleys creek. Now it is part of the Country club.

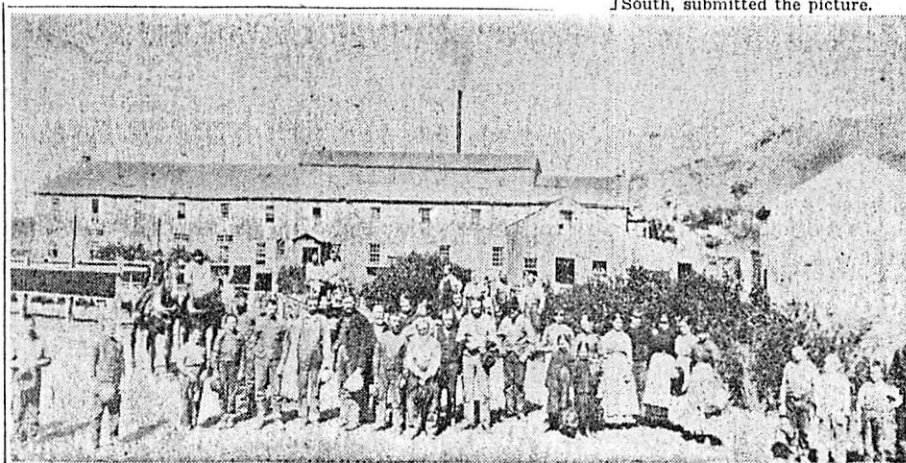
Master weavers and textile artisans from many countries participated in construction and operation of this pioneer industrial establishment. But chances are few of them had ever heard the golfer's warning cry: "Fore!"

The first part of the mill, housed in an adobe structure, was built and operated in 1860. It was designed to have an important place in one of the more significant economic experiments of early Utah.

Ox teams pulled heavily-loaded wagons all the way from Utah's Dixie, the lowlands of Washington county, across more than 300 miles of arid, virgin lands to the gin at this mill.

Flannels and plaids were strung on tenderbars seen at left as part of their processing. Yarns for stockings (probably the long black kind), blankets and yardage materials for suits, dresses and shirts were among the mill's products.

At the time the picture was made, the mill was owned by William Jennings & Sons. Earlier it had been operated by Mahonri Young Sr. and his father, Brigham Young. Louis Lund, 803 E. 27th South, submitted the picture.



Tribune Centennial Photo.